

DITHYROCARIS PRAECOX IS A CARPOID. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 43(1): 452, 1999. Chapman (1904) erected *Dithyrocaris praecox* for a specimen 15mm long from fine siltstone of the Upper Silurian Melbourne Formation in Merri Creek, at Craigieburn just E of the Hume Highway, about 25km N of Melbourne (Sections 2 & 3, Parish of Kalkallo, Geological Survey of Victoria Sheet Bb3). *Dithyrocaris*, based on its type species, (*D. testudineus* (Scouler, 1835) from the Lower Carboniferous of Scotland, belongs to the primitive crustacean group Phyllocarida (Rolle, 1969: 321, fig.147). Chapman's species does not belong to the Phyllocarida because the surface exposed is multiplicated and thus the animal could not have been enclosed by a single piece carapace as in the Phyllocarida. Rather, *praecox* is a mitrate carpod of the Family Allanicytididae. The plating arrangement (Fig. 1B) shows that the specimen represents the plano-concave surface of *Notocarpus* and because the anomalocystid plate C is on the right instead of the left (as normal in external view) it is an internal mould. Identifying *Notocarpus* are the wedge-shaped lateral orifice plates (not recognised by Philip (1981) but clear from his figs 4B, 5D, 6D), shape of the proximal lateral plates, proximal median plates and large central plate. While this specimen has no major features separating it from *Notocarpus garratti* Philip, 1981 and seems likely to belong to that species, seniority of its name would destabilise a widely used species name and provide a wholly unsuitable holotype as basis for the type species. I advocate isolation of the name *praecox* on the type specimen separating it from *garratti* by its smaller plate C and subquadrate body outline, thus preserving *garratti* as the type of *Notocarpus* and the widely used concept of the genus based on Philip's material and that presented by Ruta & Jell (1999).

Literature cited

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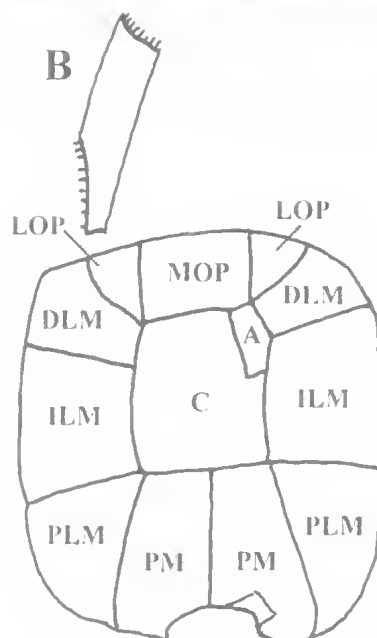


FIG 1. *Notocarpus praecox* (Chapman, 1904). A, latex cast of the plano-concave surface of the internal mould of Museum of Victoria specimen NMVP4662. B, plating arrangement of plano-concave surface drawn from A.